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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 049282 TOSEC 060012

47
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:APINKNEY:SBA
APPROVED BY P:JJSISCO
EUR:RDVINE
EUR:AAHARTMAN
S/S- MR. SHANKLE
S - MR. BARBIAN
---------- 060406
O 281717Z FEB 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 049282 TOSEC 060012

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, MARR, PFOR, NATO, IC, NO, UK

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE
(S/S NO. 76042L8)
FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SISCO

1. A COMBINATION OF FACTORS LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SEEK TO EXERCISE SOME LOW KEY QUIET PERSUASION ON THE BRITISH AT THIS TIME IN THE UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE. TELEGRAMS FROM USNATO INDICATE THAT LUNS AND NATO PERMREPS DO NOT FEEL THAT THE US HAS MADE SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR TO THE BRITISH THE REAL DANGERS THAT THIS DISPUTE POSES FOR ICELAND'S CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP IN NATO OR FOR THE BASE FACILITIES WHICH WE OPERATE IN ICELAND. FINALLY, NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR WAS VERY POINTED THIS AFTERNOON IN ASKING WHAT US WAS DOING TO CALM INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS SITUATION WHICH IS NOW AT IMPASSE. I AGREE WITH LUNS' ASSESSMENT THAT "UK WILL NOT MOVE UNLESS PUSHED BY THE US." WE HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY PASSIVE, AND I BELIEVE
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A LIGHT NUDGE MIGHT HELP. THIS CAN BE DONE WITHOUT CAUSING

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A SIGNIFICANT DIFFICULTY BETWEEN THE US AND UK.

2. I THEREFORE REQUEST YOUR AUTHORIZATION TO CALL IN RAMSBOTHAM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH I WOULD ASK THAT HE PASS DIRECTLY TO THE

FOREIGN SECRETARY: --USG IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT CURRENT IMPASSE IN FISHERIES DISPUTE COULD LEAD TO SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR NATO AND FOR US BASE FACILITIES IN ICELAND; -- WE DO NOT WISH IN ANY WAY TO ENTER INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISPUTE OR COMMENT IN ANY WAY ON IT; --I WOULD, HOWEVER, LIKE TO URGE YOUR GOVERNMENT TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO WORK TOWARDS A SOLUTION TO THIS VERY SERIOUS AND DANGEROUS SITUATION; --I WOULD HOPE THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE EVERY CONSIDERATION TO REMOVING THE FRIGATES AT THE FIRST AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITY; NONE OF YOUR ALLIES WOULD CONSIDER IT IN ANY WAY HUMILIATING FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM BUT RATHER THE ACT OF A GENEROUS GREAT POWER; --I WANT YOU TO KNON THAT WE STRONGLY SUPPORT SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS' EFFORTS, AND I URGE YOU TO DO WHAT YOU CAN TO ADVANCE HIS MISSION.

3. I BELIEVE THIS IS THE MINIMUM WE CAN DO. IT WILL HELP IMMENSELY TO KEEP LUNS AND THE NORWEGIANS IN THE FOREFRONT, WHILE WE CONTINUE TO REMAIN ON THE SIDELINES AS TO THE DETAILS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. TO DO LESS IS TO REFLECT AN IMAGE OF THE KIND OF DISINTEREST WHICH AT THIS JUNCTURE WOULD BE MISREAD BY OUR NATO ALLIES -- PARTICULARLY SINCE IT IS WELL KHOWN THAT OVER THE PAST WEEKS WE HAVE MADE REPEATED DEMARCHES TO THE ICELANDERS. LUNS AND THE NORWEGIANS WOULD TAKE OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO EVEN MAKE A MODEST APPROACH AS OUTLINED ABOVE AS A DIRECT REBUFF.

4. APPROVE? DISAPPROVE?

5. DRAFTED BY EUR/NE:APINKNEY AND CLEARED BY EUR:AA

HARTMAN AND BY S:PBARBIEN. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, ALLIANCE, WITHDRAWAL OF MEMBERSHIP, LOBBYING, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, FISHING DISPUTES
Control Number: S7604218
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE049282
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: APINKNEY:SBA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760076-0490
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976021/aaaaaajk.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTION MEMORANDUM - UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE (S/S NO. 76042L8)
TAGS: EFIS, MARR, PFOR, IC, NO, UK, US, NATO
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

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